

THE WILSON BULLETIN

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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EDITORIAL.

That the malady of lateness of issue has become cronic with the Bulletin must seem apparent to every reader. Assurances may be received that it is not a fatal malady, and that a permanent cure may be effected by the application of the specific of prompt contributions. We can promise the next issue to readers not later than the Christmas holidays.

In succeeding numbers of the Bulletin, probably not beginning until the March, 1909, number, a list of the birds which occur on the Ohio shore opposite to Point Pelee will be given running along the lines of the Point Pelee list which closes with this number. Such carefully worked-out lists, with full annotations, will be welcomed by the editor from almost any locality, which is either representative of a large region or is possessed of special features in small compass.

Many publications relating to birds have reached the editor's desk which he has not been able to review, on account of other pressing duties. He wishes to express to all such friends his hearty appreciation and intention to fully review the papers in this Bulletin as soon as possible. Among these publications Mr. Ora W. Knight's book on the Birds of Maine is the most sumptuous.

The falling of the autumn leaves will lay bare many nesting secrets which the dense foliage has hidden. A very useful piece of field work would be to go over some selected area carefully and count the nests in that area, noting the numbers of each species separately. This would give a more accurate nesting bird population than by any other means, and would be far easier than an attempt to count the birds themselves. Of course it would be nothing more than an approximate estimate, because many items enter into the problem which might modify the final result. Some sort of enumeration of the birds of any region which is to be studied for any considerable length of time is necessary. This is a relatively easy method, and can be made to approximate accuracy for the breeding birds. Try it.

FIELD NOTES.

THE SPRING MIGRATIONS AT OBERLIN, OHIO, 1908.

In general the migrations were nearly normal. There were a few unusual things, fortunately for my enthusiasm. The most notable were the appearance of White-eyed Vireo and Olive-sided Flycatcher at Oberlin as well as at Cedar Point. The bird waves were as follows:

March 2-6: Prairie Horned Lark, many migrating and singing. Snowflake, common everywhere. Am. Crow, common everywhere. Am. Robin, first migrants. Meadowlark, first migrants. Red-winged Blackbird, over a hundred migrants. Killdeer, 7, the first. Bluebird, 6 migrants. Bronzed Grackle, many.

March 9-12: Firsts, Fox Sparrow, Baldpate, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Am. Coot, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher, and a considerable influx of Bluebirds, Robins, Meadowlarks, Lesser Scaups, and Grackles.

March 16: Migrant Shrike, Whistling Swan, Rusty Blackbird, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pintail, all firsts.

March 23: Vesper Sparrow, Phebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, all firsts. Those listed for the 16th increased considerably.

March 28-April 3: Broad-winged Hawk, Am. Rough-legged Hawk, migrating; firsts, Chipping Sparrow, Savanna Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Blue-winged Teal, Am. Bittern, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Horned Grebe.

April 11-14: Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Purple Martin, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Olive-backed Thrush, Bank Swallow. Bartramian Sandpiper arrived on the 9th.

April 20: Virginia Rail, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Wood Duck, Green Heron, Osprey, Rough-winged Swallow, Whippoorwill, Palm